

THE MERCHANDISE MART
Chicago 54 Illinois Whitehall 4 4141

July 31, 1959

Dr. Wallace Sterling
President
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear Dr. Sterling:

The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation is interested in developing research centers for the investigation of those diseases which produce mental retardation. The Foundation will soon announce the creation of such a center at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston where Dr. Raymond Adams, Ballard Professor of Neuropathology at Harvard Medical School, will be the Director. Similar units are under consideration at the University of Wisconsin, Yale University and Johns Hopkins University. A Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Child Study Center was announced last fall for construction at St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica, California, where the new Child Study Center will have appropriate relationships with the UCLA Medical School.

The Foundation is interested in exploring with you and your associates the possibilities of a similar unit at Stanford University. Dr. Richard L. Masland, Assistant Director of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness at Bethesda, Maryland, who is also a Kennedy Foundation advisor, has been in touch with Dr. Joshua Lederberg about research in mental retardation. Dr. Masland was contacting Dr. Lederberg informally in our behalf, but as far as we know, Dr. Lederberg has not reached any decision, not even a preliminary one.

The purpose of this letter is to ask your advice and counsel. We have the idea that now is an appropriate time to inaugurate a research program at Stanford because you are developing so rapidly in the medical area. Dr. Richard Masland and Dr. George Tarjan of Pacific State Hospital in Pomona, California, have both been serving as consultants to the Kennedy Foundation, and it would be possible for them, together with a few other non-professional representatives of the Foundation, to meet with the appropriate Stanford personnel if this would be helpful. From our viewpoint it would be most desirable if Dr. Norman Kretchmer and Dr. Arthur Kornberg, as well as Dr. Lederberg were to become interested.

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The Kennedy Foundation has been in existence approximately ten years. The Foundation has concentrated its efforts in providing custodial facilities for mentally retarded children; day care centers for mentally retarded children; recreational facilities for underprivileged children and similar philanthropic activities, primarily in the children's field. Only within the last year has the Foundation launched into medical research, and we are fortunate to be making substantial progress already. The Massachusetts General Hospital arrangements are final and will be announced in September. Negotiations with Wisconsin University are far advanced, and we are hopeful that an important program can be developed there. It would be much to our liking if we could develop suitable arrangements at Stanford.

I hope this inquiry will interest you and members of your faculty. I look forward to the possibility of hearing from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Sargent Shriver, Jr.

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